

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-11 without prejudice or disclaimer, and substitute new Claims 12-20 therefor as follows:

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled).

12. (New) A station for storing and refilling with ink a cartridge of a printhead, comprising:

a container with a collection chamber containing a predetermined quantity of ink for refilling completely said cartridge a plurality of times, said collection chamber being arranged adjacently to a bottom wall of said container, said bottom wall serving as a support platform or said container on a horizontal plane so as to define a vertical operating position of said station, said container having an external shape defining at least one side wall of said container and also being provided with a housing attached to a top wall of said container and suitable for accommodating said cartridge;

refilling means at least partially immersed in said predetermined quantity of ink when said station is arranged in said vertical operating position, and suitable for cooperating with said cartridge for transferring said ink from said collection chamber to said cartridge; and

a back-flow compartment surrounding said housing and communicating freely with said collection chamber for receiving the ink contained in said collection chamber when said station is turned on from said vertical operating position,

said back-flow compartment and said collection chamber having their respective volumes proportionate in such a way that, when said station is tilted from said vertical

operating position and placed along any side wall of said container in a tilted position on said horizontal plane or when said station is turned upside down with respect to said vertical operating position, said predetermined quantity of ink flows back from said collection chamber to said back-flow compartment, whereby said refilling means emerges from said ink and any leakage of ink through said refilling means is avoided.

13. (New) The station according to claim 12, wherein said back-flow compartment has a volume at least equal to the volume of said predetermined quantity of ink.

14. (New) The station according to claim 12, wherein said refilling means is disposed in a central position with respect to said bottom wall and symmetrical with respect to the side walls of said container.

15. (New) The station according to claim 12, wherein said refilling means comprises an elongated capillary element passing through a bottom wall of said housing and having a lower end facing said bottom wall and an upper end suitable for being inserted in said cartridge for transferring said ink through capillary from said container to said cartridge.

16. (New) The station according to claim 15, wherein said capillary element is inserted in an impermeable, tube-like element attached to said housing and extending in said collection chamber perpendicularly to said bottom wall, said tube-like element also being disposed in a position that is central with respect to said bottom wall and symmetrical with respect to the side walls of said container, so that said capillary

element is not covered by said ink when said container is tilted laterally or turned upside down.

17. (New) The station according to claim 16, wherein said tube-like element consists of a rigid pipe attached to said bottom wall of said housing.

18. (New) The station according to claim 16, wherein said tube-like element consists of a rigid and impermeable sheath attached tightly to said bottom wall.

19. (New) The station according to claim 15, wherein said lower end of said capillary element is placed at a distance of not more than about 5 cm from said bottom wall.

20. (New) The station according to claim 12, wherein said container comprises a compensating device for balancing differences in hydrostatic pressure between and collection chamber and said cartridge, said compensating device comprising a lamina valve attached against a boss of the bottom wall of said housing, said lamina comprising a flexible portion suitable for elastically assuming one or the other of two positions at opposite ends with respect to a rest position, when said lamina is urged by the difference in hydrostatic pressure between the cartridge and the collection chamber or vice versa.